Quantities of small plants in containers may be protected by laying flat and covering with cloth, straw or moss. This is easier than trying to suspend a cover over them. It also prevents excess water from soaking the soil in the container.

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WINTERIZING HIBISCUS IN SOUTH FLORIDA

By W. Bruce Parnell

In this article we will attempt to write the information we have learned throughout the years for the growing and care of hibiscus Rosa-sinensis in the area below central Florida. The basic information that applies to growing in any area will be omitted, as that has been published by several authorities heretofore.

Fertilizing differs somewhat in this area from other areas not this far south. We do not necessarily have to harden the plants with potash, like in colder climates, however, some of the growers do this to play safe. Neither do we have to bank our plants with soil, and never have to bring in any potted plants. We fertilize our plants with a 4-7-5 with 20% organic every 45 days if necessary throughout the spring and summer, using a nutritional spray or alternately with the commercial. This application will tend to unlock the inactive fertilizer in the ground. Nutritional spray also has a tendency to prevent formation of yellow leaves, and retard common bud-drop condition.

Pruning is done in the area by some growers. We do not like to prune, and if any has to be done, we do it in July. Old plants may be sawed off to about two feet from the ground, leaving all growth present on the stumps. Use sterilized tools.

In summing up the situation down here, good plants in the yard will cintinue to thrive if watched

very closely for any trouble of any kind and try and correct it when it first appears. A plant in the right spot, fertilized and watered when necessary (not overdone) and kept that way, year in and year out, will keep itself immunized to a great extent to all incompatibilities.

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CULTURE - SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COAST
NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY SYMPTOMS OF SICK PLANTS

By Mrs. Jack Z. Sanders

All garden plants have certain requirements for growth which include light, water, air, essential mineral elements, anchorage, and a favorable temperature. A deficiency of any one of these requirements can limit the growth of the plant. Insects, scale and diseases can also affect plant growth.

Nutrition is the one factor that affects plant growth which the home gardener must try to evaluate and supply the plant demands. The following deficiency symptoms are general signs and can vary with the likes and dislikes of different plants. If your plant looks sick go over the check list to find the cause:

1. Likes and dislikes as to light, water, temperature, pH of soil, and food.
2. For insects, scale and disease.
3. Condition of feeder roots.
4. Condition of soil.
5. When last fertilized and what % mineral elements.
6. Amount of rain in past 6 weeks.

A. Effects localized on older or lower leaves, or on whole plant.

1. Effect on whole plant.